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Small Business Administration recognizes three Kansas Citians

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The Kansas City area is home to three recipients of the **Small Business Administration** region's small business champions.

Eight awards were given.

The local companies involved include **Marathon Moving & Delivery LLC** of Overland Park, **DuraComm** of North Kansas City and the **Johnson County Community College** Small Business Development Center. The SBA's Region 7 covers Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa.

Ten regional award winners in each category compete for national titles, which will be recognized at the SBA National Small Business Week celebration May 12-14.

- Marathon Moving owner **Roger Lee Ward III** received the SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year award recognizing those younger than 30 who have most boosted sales and staff since the business came about. He and his wife bought the moving company in 2007 with help from the **Kansas Small Business Development Center** at JCCC. Then, revenue was \$60,000; last year, it hit \$550,000. The company grew from one to six trucks, and the company now has 18 employees.
- [Benny Lee](#), chairman and CEO of DuraComm, was recognized as minority small business champion. He owns several Kansas City-based international companies and holds leadership roles in several national and local organizations, including as president of the Kansas City Asian American Chamber of Commerce. He also fulfills roles with the Kansas City-based International Relations Council, **Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce** board and [Futurallia KC 2011 advising board](#), and is an entrepreneur in residence with the **University of Missouri-Kansas City**.
- **Mary Maule-Lott**, credit report expert for JCCC's Small Business Development Center, has used free time since 2007 to work one on one with more than 50 small business owners or hopefuls. She also has given speeches and workshops for more than 250 people to help them improve their credit reports. She works for **Western & Southern Financial Group** and also is involved with the Kansas City, Kan., Women's Chamber of Commerce and the **Kansas Black Chamber of Commerce**.